(f) and (g) The aim of Government is to hold elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as early as possible and efforts are being made to create conditions in which this could be brought about.

Killing by Militants in Jammu and Kashmir

361. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Hindutan Times dated the 10th September, 1994 under the caption 'Many blasts, gun battles claimed 56 lives in J and K' regarding the highest toll in militant-related violtce in the Valley during the past few months;

(b) if so, how many out of 56 revenge killings were militants;

(c) the steps taken to maintain peace in J&K; and

(d) how many of those killed were unarmed innocent people and the steps taken by Government to pay compensation to the kith and kin of those innocent people who were killed by the militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the news item in question. According to available information, 31 millitants, 12 civilians and 1 Security force personnel were killed in terrorist related activties on the 8th and 9th of September, 1994.

(c) Sustained and targetted operations against the terrorists are being continued to curb their activities and restore peace in the State.

(d) The State Government is providing ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of innocent civilians killed in terrorist violence.

News Report on incidents in Kashmir

362. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Srinagar Urdu Daily, ALSAFA, in its issue of August 16, 1994 has published details of the incidents which happened in Kashmir from January, 1994 to June 30, 1994;

(b) whether these details are factually correct; and

(c) if not, what are the facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decrease Militant Activities in Jammu and Kashmir

363. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the militant activities have come down in Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, what are the factors in support of the conclusion;

(c) whether Government are taking some steps to resolve the issue in a democratic way; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (d) The militants have tried to keep their activities at high level. However, there has been a qualitative and perceptible change in the situation on the ground level, which is reflected in the successes